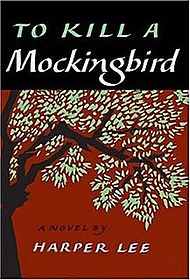
Unit Two: Discovering Themes

in

To Kill a Mockingbird



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Big Questions:

1. What are themes and how do I find them in a book?
2. What are some themes in To Kill a Mockingbird, and how do the characters in the story support the themes?

Big Goals:

1. Learn to track themes using evidence from the book.
2. Write a three-paragraph essay about the themes in the book as a summative assessment.

Using the Reading Logs

* Reading Logs are your tool. The more time and effort you invest in them, the more you will get out of the reading.
* As we read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Reading Logs will guide your thinking and help you organize information from the text.
* Each Reading Log has tasks assigned to it, but you must complete these in your binder. Mrs. Hammond will check these activities periodically for a grade.
* In order to receive full points for your Reading Logs, they must be complete and thorough. They will help you with later assignments such as quizzes and papers.

Tasks in the Reading Logs:

The following tasks will show up in your Reading Logs on a regular basis.

The list describes what you should do for each task.

**Tasks Before Reading**

* *Vocab*: Find the words in a dictionary and write their definitions down. It usually means that the word is going to show up in the book.
* *Review*: In 2-3 sentences, reflect on what has previously happened in the book to remind yourself of the plot, characters, setting, etc.

**Tasks After Reading**

* *Visualize*: Imagine a picture of what is happening in the book. Create a drawing that demonstrates the scene(s).
* *Author’s Thoughts*: Write a few sentences to explain why the author might have included a specific line, scene, or reference.
* *Reflection*: Make connections between the book, yourself, and the world in a short paragraph.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Friday, September 28th\*\*\*

Reading Log 1

Chapter 1: Pages 3-15

**Before Reading…**

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* tyrannical (pg. 6): “I had felt her **tyrannical** presence”
* malevolent (pg. 8): “Inside the house lived a **malevolent** phantom”
* predilection (pg. 9): “a **predilection** unforgivable in Maycomb”
* domiciled (pg. 10): “an enormous and confusing tribe **domiciled** in the northern part”
* nebulous (pg. 11): “Boo’s transition from the basement to back home was **nebulous** in Jem’s memory”

*Review*: Look at the cover of the book and answer the questions below.

* What are the pictures on the cover? What can you predict the book will be about?
* Read the back cover of the book. What predictions can you make?

**After Reading…**

*Visualize*: Draw three pictures that represent the scenes listed below.

* What does Maycomb look like? Draw a picture of Main Street (as you imagine it).
* What do the children look like? Draw a picture of them playing together.
* What does Boo Radley look like, according to the narrator? Draw a picture of Boo Radley in his house.

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following three quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “Nobody knew what form of intimidation Mr. Radley employed to keep Boo out of sight, but Jem figured that Mr. Radley kept him chained to the bed most of the time. Atticus said no, it wasn’t that sort of thing, that there were other ways of making people into ghosts” (pg. 11).
* “Jem gave a reasonable description of Boo: Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels or any cats he could catch, that’s why is hands were bloodstained… There was a long jagged scar that ran across his face; what teeth he had were yellow and rotten; his eyes popped, and he drooled most of the time” (pg. 13).
* “The old house was the same, droopy and sick, but as we stared down the street we thought we saw an inside shutter move. Flick. A tiny, almost invisible movement, and the house was still” (pg. 15).

*Reflection*: Write a 3-4 sentence response to the prompt below.

* On the surface, Maycomb seems like it would be a cheery, Southern town. What evidence points to a darker side of Maycomb? Is the town more good than evil, or the opposite?

*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Monday, October 1st \*\*\*

Reading Log 2

Chapters 2-3: Pages 15-32

**Before Reading…**

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* wallowing (pg. 17): “ I had been **wallowing** illicitly in the daily papers”
* impressionistic (pg. 18): “the class received these **impressionistic** revelations in silence”
* entailment (pg. 20): “When I asked Jem what **entailment** was, and Jem described it…”
* vexations (pg. 21): “Entailment was only a part of Mr. Cunningham’s **vexations**”
* mortification (pg. 21): “Miss Caroline’s subsequent **mortification**”
* erratic (pg. 24): “when she was furious, Calpurnia’s grammar became **erratic**”
* iniquities (pg. 25): “…staying behind to advise Atticus of Calpurnia’s **iniquities**”
* contemptuous (pg. 27): “He gave a short **contemptuous** snort”
* diminutive (pg. 27): “He was among the most **diminutive** of men”
* monosyllabic (pg. 28): “My replies were **monosyllabic**”
* fractious (pg. 29): “she had at last seen the error of her **fractious** ways”
* amiable (pg. 29): “He waited in **amiable** silence”
* disapprobation (pg. 31): “our activities would be received with considerable **disapprobation**”

**After Reading…**

*Visualize*: Draw two pictures to represent the characters listed below.

* What does Walter Cunningham look like?
* What does Burris Ewell look like?

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following four quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “I could not remember when the lines above Atticus’ moving finger separated into words, but I had stared at them all the evenings in my memory… Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing” (pg. 18).
* “I thought I had made things sufficiently clear. It was clear enough to the rest of us: Walter Cunningham was sitting there lying his head off. He didn’t forget his lunch, he didn’t have any. He had none today nor would he have any tomorrow or the next day. He had probably never seen three quarters together at the same time in his life” (pg. 20).
* “…if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you’ll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view… until you climb into his skin and walk around in it” (pg. 30).
* “He said that the Ewells were members of an exclusive society made up of Ewells. In certain circumstances the common folk judiciously allowed them certain privileges by the simple method of becoming blind to some of the Ewells’ activities. They didn’t have to go to school, for one thing. Another thing, Mr. Bob Ewell, Burris’ father, was permitted to hunt and trap out of season” (pgs. 30-31).

*Reflection*: Write a 3-4 sentence response to the prompt below.

* In Chapters 2-3, we met Walter Cunningham and Burris Ewell. What do these characters have in common? What are their differences? What do these characters tell us about the town of Maycomb?

*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Thursday, October 4th\*\*\*

Reading Log 3

Chapters 4-6: Pages 32-57

**Before Reading…**

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* auspicious (pg. 32): “the remainder of my schooldays were no more **auspicious** that the first”
* camellia (pg. 35): “plucking an occasional **camellia**”
* melancholy (pg. 39): “it was a **melancholy** little drama”
* evasion (pg. 40): “Jem’s **evasion** told me our game was a secret”
* tacit (pg. 42): “our **tacit** treaty with Miss Maudie was that we could play on her lawn…”
* asinine (pg. 49): “we were not to play this **asinine** game he had seen us playing”
* dismemberment (pg. 55): “Atticus saved Dill from immediate **dismemberment**”

*Review*: Write 1-2 sentences to answer the questions below.

* So far, what have we learned about Boo Radley and his family?
* Describe what kind of a person Atticus is.

**After Reading…**

*Visualize*: Draw pictures to represent the scenes below.

* The children play a game on the sidewalk. What do they look like as they’re playing?
* Jem loses an article of clothing in the Radleys’ garden. What does this scene look like?

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “For some reason, my first year of school had wrought a great change in our relationship: Calpurnia’s tyranny, unfairness, and meddling in my business had faded… On my part, I went to much trouble, sometimes, not to provoke her” (pg. 34).
* “How would we like it if Atticus barged in on us without knocking, when we were in our rooms at night? We were, in effect, doing the same thing to Mr. Radley. What Mr. Radley did might seem peculiar to us, but it did not seem peculiar to him. Furthermore, had it ever occurred to use that the civil way to communicate with another being was by the front door instead of a side window?” (pg. 49)

*Reflection*: Write a 3-4 sentence response to the prompt below.

* The children decide to go into the Radleys’ garden, and they are shot at. The first assumption that the neighborhood makes is that an African-American was lurking in the shadows. What does this tell us about the town of Maycomb? Is it still the cheerful, Southern setting?

*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Monday, October 8th\*\*\*

Reading Log 4

Chapters 7-8: Pages 57-74

**Before Reading…**

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* ascertaining (pg. 61): “Jem no longer felt the necessity of **ascertaining** the hour”
* aberrations (pg. 63): “contributing to the **aberrations** of nature”
* touchous (pg. 64): “Atticus was still **touchous** about us and the Radleys”
* caricatures (pg. 67): “go around making **caricatures** of the neighbors”
* morphodite (pg. 68): “erected an absolute **morphodite** in that yard”
* omitting (pg. 72): “total disregard for my safety if not for his own, **omitting** nothing…”
* cordial (pg. 73): “she still took a lively and **cordial** interest in Jem’s and my affairs”

*Review*: Write 1-2 sentences to answer the questions below.

* Remind yourself… who is Miss Maudie, and what is she like?
* Where is Jem at the end of Chapter 6? What has he retrieved?

**After Reading…**

*Visualize*: Draw pictures to represent the scenes below.

* The children decide to build a snowman, but it doesn’t look like a traditional snowman. What does the snowman look like?
* While Miss Maudie’s house is on fire, Scout receives a mysterious blanket. Draw a picture of how she got this blanket.

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “Next morning on the way to school he ran ahead of me and stopped at the tree. Jem was facing me when he looked up, and I saw him go stark white… Someone had filled our knot-hole with cement… He stood there until nightfall, and I waited for him. When we went in the house I saw he had been crying; his face was dirty in the right places, but I thought it odd that I had not heard him” (pgs. 62-63).
* “The men of Maycomb, in all degrees of dress and undress, took furniture from Miss Maudie’s house to a yard across the street. I saw Atticus carrying Miss Maudie’s heavy oak rocking chair, and thought it sensible of him to save what she valued most” (pg. 69).
* “I looked down and found myself clutching a brown woolen blanket I was wearing around my shoulders… I turned to Jem for an answer, but Jem was even more bewildered than I. He said he didn’t know how it got there, we did exactly as Atticus had told us, we stood down by the Radley gate away from everybody, we didn’t move an inch…” (pg. 71).

*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Thursday, October 11th\*\*\*

Reading Log 5

Chapters 9-11: Pages 74-112

**Before Reading…**

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* changelings (pg. 77): “Jem told me about **changelings** and siblings”
* guilelessness (pg. 81): “indicative of Simon’s **guilelessness**”
* trousseau (pg. 81): “donned her complete **trousseau** to save it from raiders”
* invective (pg. 87): “Her use of bathroom **invective** leaves nothing to the imagination”
* inconspicuous (pg. 89): “he would not remain as **inconspicuous** as we wished him to”
* apoplectic (pg. 100): “her reaction was **apoplectic**”
* philippic (pg. 102): “we were followed up the sidewalk by a **philippic**”
* viscous (pg. 107): “some **viscous** substance coming to a boil”

**After Reading…**

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “Somehow, if I fought Cecil I would let Atticus down. Atticus so rarely asked Jem and me to do something for him, I could take being called a coward for him. I felt extremely noble for having remembered, and remained noble for three weeks” (pg. 77).
* “Aunt Alexandra was fanatical on the subject of my attire. I could not possibly hope to be a lady if I wore breeches; when I said I could do nothing in a dress, she said I wasn’t supposed to be doing things that required pants… I should be a ray of sunshine in my father’s lonely life” (pg. 81)
* “Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don’t eat up people’s gardens, don’t nest in corncribs, they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird” (pg. 90).
* “Jem picked up a rock and threw it jubilantly at the carhouse. Running after it, he called back: “Atticus is a gentleman, just like me!”” (pg. 99).
* “…before I can live with other folks I’ve got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience” (pg. 105).
* “I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do” (pg. 112).

*Reflection*: Write a 3-4 sentence response to the prompt below.

* Do you agree with Atticus’ definition of courage? Why or why not? What in your life is worth fighting for, even if you know you might lose?

*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Monday, October 15th\*\*\*

Reading Log 6

Chapters 12-13: Pages 115-134

**Before Reading…**

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* barnacles (pg. 116): “The Governor was eager to scrape a few **barnacles** off the ship of state”
* frivolous (pg. 116): “some **frivolous**-looking girls yelled”
* rotogravure (pg. 120): “the church’s only decoration except a **rotogravure** print”
* garish (pg. 120): “a cheap cardboard fan bearing a **garish** Garden of Gethsemane”
* voile (pg. 123): “in her navy voile dress and tub of a hat”

*Review*: Write 2-3 sentences for the question below.

* From the past reading, what have you noticed about Maycomb’s economic classes? Who is upper-class? Who is middle-class? Who is lower-class? How are these classes defined?

**After Reading…**

*Visualize*: Draw pictures to represent the characters below.

* Jem and Scout attend Calpurnia’s church. How do they look compared to the congregation?
* Scout does not dress or act the way Aunt Alexandra wants her to. What does Scout look like at the present? What does Aunt Alexandra want her to look like?

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “This change in Jem had come about in a matter of weeks… Overnight, it seemed, Jem had acquired an alien set of values and was trying to impose them on me: several times he went so far as to tell me what to do” (pg. 115).
* “It was an ancient paint-peeled frame building, the only church in Maycomb with a steeple and bell, called First Purchase because it was paid for from the first earnings of freed slaves. Negroes worshipped in it on Sundays and white men gambled in it on weekdays” (pg. 118).
* “That Calpurnia lead a modest double life never dawned on me. The idea that she had a separate existence outside our household was a novel one, to say nothing of her having command of two languages” (pg. 125).
* “She asked me to tell you you must try to behave like the little lady and gentleman that you are. She wants to talk to you about the family… so you’ll have some idea of who you are, so you might be moved to behave accordingly” (pg. 133).

*Reflection*: Write a 3-4 sentence response to the prompt below.

* Scout and Jem struggle to live up to Aunt Alexandra’s expectations that they uphold the family name. When was a time you felt like you didn’t live up to your family’s expectations?

**Reading Log 7**

Chapters 14-15

(Pages 135-155)

due on Thursday 10/18

**Reading Log 8**

Chapters 16-17

(Pages 155-178)

due on Monday 10/22

**Reading Log 9**

Chapters 18-19

(Pages 178-199)

due on Thursday 10/25

**Reading Log 10**

Chapters 20-22

(Pages 199-217)

due on Monday 10/29

**Reading Log 11**

Chapters 23-25

(Pages 217-241)

due on Thursday 11/1

**Reading Log 12**

Chapters 26-27

(Pages 241-254)

due on Monday 11/5

**Reading Log 13**

Chapters 28-30

(Pages 254-276)

due on Thursday 11/8

**Final Project and Essay**

Assigned: Friday 11/9

Due: Friday 11/16